

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request further examination and consideration in view of the and arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-11 and 13-20 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13 and 15-20 were rejected and Claims 3, 8 and 14 were objected to. Claims 1, 6 and 15 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-11 and 13-20 are pending in this application. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the remarks below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 13, 15 and 18-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ito (U.S. Pat. No. 6,203,344). Specifically, it is stated that "Regarding claims 1, 6 and 20, Ito discloses a headphone support element for securing a headphone connector to a headphone connector interface of an electronic device (1), said element comprising: a circular plug (112) and a jack (22) for operatively receiving the plug (Fig. 1), wherein the headphone support element has a first receptacle (25) for operatively engaging and fixedly securing the headphone connector as claimed." The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Ito discloses a recording and reproducing apparatus 1 having a jack 26 that can mate with two different types of plugs, a headphone plug 110 and a data communication plug 210. The jack 26 has a case block that is furnished with a headphone jack 22 and a data connector 25 exposed on the apparatus 1. The headphone jack 22 and the data connector 25 are formed in an integral structure. The headphone plug 110 comprises a headphone plug 112 connectable to the headphone jack 22 and a connector 113 connectable to the data connector 25. The headphone plug 112 and the connector 113 of the headphone plug are formed in an integral structure with a plug body 111. Ito does not disclose a jack having a receptacle for securing one circular plug. Instead, Ito discloses a jack for securing a plug and a receptacle for securing a connector.

In contrast to the teachings of Ito, the present invention is directed to a headphone support element that is coupled with a circular headphone connector interface of an electronic device. The headphone support element engages and secures a headphone connector having one circular plug when the headphone connector is connected to the headphone connector interface. When secured to the headphone support element, the circular headphone connector is unable to move or rotate about the headphone connector interface. The headphone support element is preferably coupled to the headphone connector interface by an adhesive, however the headphone support

element can alternatively be integrally formed within the electronic device. In contrast to the teachings of Ito, the present invention discloses a jack having a receptacle for securing one circular plug. Ito discloses a jack for securing a plug and a receptacle for securing a connector. As such, the invention in Ito requires two secure connections, not one, to electrically couple a remote device to an electronic device.

The amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a headphone support element for securing a headphone connector having one circular plug to a headphone connector interface of an electronic device having a corresponding jack wherein the plug is inserted into the jack, the headphone support element coupled with the headphone connector interface, wherein the headphone support element having a first receptacle for engaging and securing the plug of the headphone connector, wherein the headphone connector cannot move or rotate when connected to the headphone connector interface. As mentioned above, Ito does not disclose a jack having a receptacle for securing one circular plug. Ito discloses a jack for securing a plug and a receptacle for securing a connector. As such, the invention in Ito requires two secure connections, not one, to electrically couple a remote device to an electronic device. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Ito.

Claims 2 and 5 are dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Ito. Accordingly, Claims 2 and 5 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The amended Independent Claim 6 is directed to an electronic device having a circular headphone connector interface for accepting a corresponding circular headphone connector, the electronic device comprising: a headphone support element coupled with the headphone connector interface, the headphone support element having a first receptacle for engaging and securing one circular plug of the headphone connector within, the headphone support element having a first side and a second side, wherein the headphone connector cannot move or rotate when connected to the headphone connector interface. As mentioned above, Ito does not disclose a jack having a receptacle for securing one circular plug. Ito discloses a jack for securing a plug and a receptacle for securing a connector. As such, the invention in Ito requires two secure connections, not one, to electrically couple a remote device to an electronic device. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 6 is allowable over the teachings of Ito.

Claims 7 and 19 are dependent upon the independent Claim 6. As discussed above, the independent Claim 6 is allowable over the teachings of Ito. Accordingly, Claims 7 and 19 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The amended Independent Claim 15 is directed to a method of securing a circular headphone connector to a corresponding circular headphone connector interface. The method comprises the steps of providing a headphone support element; and coupling the headphone support element to the headphone connector interface, wherein the headphone support element includes a first receptacle for engaging and securing one circular plug of the headphone connector to the headphone connector interface thereby preventing the headphone connector from moving or rotating when connected to the headphone connector interface. As mentioned above, Ito does not disclose a jack having a receptacle for securing one circular plug. Ito discloses a jack for securing a plug and a receptacle for securing a connector. As such, the invention in Ito requires two secure connections, not one, to electrically couple a remote device to an electronic device. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 15 is allowable over the teachings of Ito.

Claims 13 and 18 are dependent upon the independent Claim 15. As discussed above, the independent Claim 15 is allowable over the teachings of Ito. Accordingly, Claims 13 and 18 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 20 is directed to a system for coupling a remote device having a circular male plug to an electronic device having a corresponding circular female jack, wherein the remote device is electrically coupled to the electronic device by inserting the male plug into the female jack, the system comprising a support element mounted to the electronic device such that the support element mechanically engages the male plug and prevents the male plug from rotating relative to the female jack. As mentioned above, Ito does not disclose a jack having a receptacle for securing one circular plug. Ito discloses a jack for securing a plug and a receptacle for securing a connector. As such, the invention in Ito requires two secure connections, not one, to electrically couple a remote device to an electronic device. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 20 is allowable over the teachings of Ito.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4, 9-11 and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagopian (U.S. Pat. No. 3,375,333). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 4 depends upon the Independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Ito. Accordingly, Claim 4 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 9-11 depend upon the Independent Claim 6. As discussed above, the independent Claim 6 is allowable over the teachings of Ito. Accordingly, Claims 9-11 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 16 and 17 depend upon the Independent Claim 15. As discussed above, the independent Claim 15 is allowable over the teachings of Ito. Accordingly, Claims 16 and 17 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim Objections

Claims 3, 8 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 depends upon the Independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Ito. Accordingly, Claim 3 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 8 depends upon the Independent Claim 6. As discussed above, the independent Claim 6 is allowable over the teachings of Ito. Accordingly, Claim 8 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 14 depends upon the Independent Claim 15. As discussed above, the independent Claim 15 is allowable over the teachings of Ito. Accordingly, Claim 14 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Claims 1-11 and 13-20 are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

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By: Thomas B. Haverstock

Thomas B. Haverstock

Reg. No.: 32,571

Attorneys for Applicants

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.3(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.

Date: 11-29-04 By: Justin L. Hanna